

Hollingworth
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

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HOLLINGWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1910.

*To the Chairman and Gentlemen
of the Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have herewith the honour to present to you my First Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. My appointment only dates from June 15th last, but I trust you will find this report to be complete, and continuous with the statistics of previous years. The representatives of the late Medical Officer very kindly handed to me all papers, memoranda, etc., left in their hands, and the loyal help of Mr. Pitt, your Nuisance Inspector and Surveyor, has enabled me to pick up the points of cases still sub judice. The Tables of Sickness and Mortality referred to in the Local Government Memorandum, as to Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health, have received my special attention.

General Features.

Hollingworth, situated in East Cheshire, consists of a village lying at the foot of an extensive and very hilly Country District. This Country District occupies the northern slope of the Longdendale Valley—looking due South towards the North of Derbyshire, the summit of the Peak of Derbyshire being visible.

The Vale of Longdendale presents an expansive vista, surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills. The mean altitude of the village of Hollingworth is 500ft. above sea level, the Country District, on the northern side, rising to a maximum of 1,300ft. The River Etherow winds through the valley, and here forms the boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire. The climate is very bracing.

The inhabitants are for the most part cotton operatives engaged in both spinning and weaving. Within the rateable area are three cotton mills and one large Bleaching Concern. There is no other important industry calculated to influence the Public Health.

Population Census, 1901	2,447
Estimated to middle of June, 1910... ..	2,980
Area in Acres... ..	2,086
Birth-rate for 1,000 living.....	24.1
Death-rate per 1,000 living... ..	13.4
Death-rate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	0.3
Deaths under one year per 1,000 births	97.

Adoptive Acts.

The following are in force:—

1. Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.
2. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part iii.

Bye-laws.

Bye-laws in force relate to the following:—

1. New streets and buildings.
2. Common Lodging Houses.
3. Slaughterhouses.
4. Houses let in Lodgings.
5. Cleansing and Scavenging.
6. Offensive Trades.
7. Nuisances.

No new Bye-Law was adopted during 1910.

Population.

The Census of 1901 gave the Population of Hollingworth as 2,447. The erection and subsequent working of large Bleaching Works made it desirable to estimate the population as 2,800. A number of new Dwelling Houses being later built, the estimate to the middle of June, 1907, was again raised to 2,980. At this estimate the population still stands,

Births.

There were 72 births registered in the district during 1910—35 males, 37 females; 68 legitimate, 4 illegitimate. This gives a rate per 1,000 of the population of 24.1.

This birth-rate may compare with the number 17.4, the rate for 1909, and with the number 23.6, which represents the average birth rate for the years 1900-1909.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the district during 1910 was 40, giving a death rate of 13.4. The rate for 1909 was 11.0, and the average for the years 1900-1909 inclusive was 14.3.

There is no public institution within the district receiving sick and infirm persons, and no death has been registered of any resident in any public institution beyond the district. No deaths were registered at ages over 1 and under 5, and none over 5 and under 15.

Infantile Mortality.

Seven of the deaths occurred in infants under 1 year of age, giving a rate per 1,000 Births registered of 97.

The causes certified were:—

Diarrhœa	1
Marasmus	3
Convulsions... ..	2
Pneumonia... ..	1

Many mothers in this district return to their work at the mills very soon after the puerperium, putting their babies out to be nursed. This is a fatal mistake. From my own observation I am convinced that this practice is responsible for many deaths in infants, and also that many deaths in later years owe their ultimate cause to such seeds sown in infancy.

Zymotic Death Rate.

Taking the usual seven principal diseases, there was only one such death registered during the year, and that occurred under 1 year of age. The cause was Diarrhea.

Tuberculosis.

Five deaths from Tuberculous diseases were registered, viz. :—

- 4 Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and
- 1 Tuberculous Peritonitis.

The Council has not yet adopted any system of notification of Tuberculosis.

So far as the Poor Law is concerned, Hollingworth, as the No. 8 District of the Ashton-under-Lyne Union, is under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908. Under those regulations only one case has as yet been notified in this district. This case died at home, and is included in the five cases herein classified.

Sanitary Inspection of Phthisical patients' houses has been performed, and the Nuisance Inspector has fumigated after such a death. Advice as to spitting is also given.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

18 Notifications under this Act were received during the year. They had reference to only two diseases.

Erysipelas	2
Scarlet Fever,	16

The two cases of Erysipelas were ordinary septic complications of wounds. No source of infection could be traced, and the Inspector of Nuisances found no insanitary condition on the premises.

The exact diagnosis in these cases of Scarlet Fever has been difficult. The Medical Adviser in attendance upon the majority of the cases has been uncertain as to the true scientific

nomenclature. His difficulty has been to eliminate the terms Rætheln (German Measles), and the 4th Disease (the Rugby term).

While presenting all the cardinal symptoms of Scarlet Fever, extreme mildness and evanescence have marked the whole course and clinical aspect. Six weeks' isolation has seemed unnecessary, and even cruel. The same disease (from report) has appeared in all the surrounding townships, and has there also been notified as Scarlet Fever.

Illegitimate Infants.

Four out of the 72 births registered during 1910 were illegitimate.

Inquests—None.

Isolation Hospital.

The only isolation hospital in Longdendale is situated on Mottram Moor. The ownership is vested in the three Councils of Mottram, Hollingworth, and Tintwistle. It was built solely for Smallpox. Six beds are kept ready with a potentiality for 16. Only one case, and that, I understand, a very doubtful case, has ever yet been admitted. In my opinion "home isolation" has, in this district, been eminently satisfactory, and could not be improved upon by removal to hospital.

Water Supply.

This is a constant public service. The water is obtained from a spring rising high up the Arnfield Clough. Analysis has repeatedly shown the water to be of exceptional purity. It is slightly acid, and no doubt must to some degree possess pulbo-solvent properties. The short service pipes in use are well tinned, and no trace of lead has ever been found in this water.

Milk Supply.

The milk consumed in this district is almost entirely produced on farms within the district, and 1910 revealed no complaints.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are 17 Dairies, but no Milkshops. The farmers dispose of their milk in the immediate neighbourhood.

Quarterly visits have been made, in company with the Inspector. The majority of the farm premises have been found clean, and well appointed. There are exceptions, and they have been reported. These exceptions are still receiving attention, and the results will be further reported. It has not yet been deemed necessary to take any legal proceedings.

The Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order are in force.

Food Stuffs.

In no case has any unsound food been detected, either prepared, stored, or exposed for sale. No action has been taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, nor under section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. It has not been found necessary to condemn any carcase, or part of any carcase, for Tuberculosis.

House Accommodation.

This is, in the main, satisfactory. Four new houses were built and occupied in 1910. Action was taken in one case of overcrowding. The nuisance was at once abated. No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Sewerage.

The district is well equipped with a good main sewer, having an ample fall and flush. No specific works were carried out in 1910. House drains and sewers are in most cases now connected with the main sewer. There are a few outlying districts on the hill-sides still unconnected. These latter are mostly fitted with good cesspools, the sewage from which is periodically removed, and used as manure.

House Refuse.

Some of the new houses are now being built with water-closets. Some of the old houses are also being adapted for

water-closets. In most cases the old property is served with Midden-privies. There are also found Dry Ashpits, Pail-closets, and Dust-bins.

Scavenging.

The scavenging is carried out by the owners of the property. The Inspector tells me the system works well. A bye-law compels all such work to be completed by 11-0 a.m.

Sewage Disposal.

The treatment at the outfall works is that by tanks, filters, and land. The Inspector of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Rivers Pollution Committee has made several visits to the sewage works during 1910, and took five samples of the effluent. All these samples were reported upon as being 'good effluents.' No manner of action has been required.

Elementary Schools.

The district is provided with a commodious and modern elementary school. The sanitary arrangements and conditions are regularly inspected. The teachers and school-attendance officer report to me all cases of infectious diseases, whether notifiable or not. In this way such diseases as whooping-cough, ringworm, pediculi capitis, etc., are at once segregated.

Midwives Act, 1902.

There are three midwives on the County Register, residing and practising in this district. These three ladies obtained their certificates by virtue of their being in practice the required length of time before the passing of the Act. They can write, and are now keeping their Registers fairly well.

During 1910 they attended 53 cases. Two records of sending for medical help have been received.

In no case has the death of a mother taken place before the attendance of a Medical Practitioner. Nor has there been a death of any infant under such circumstances.

Two still-births were notified.

None of their cases had Puerperal Fever, or other infectious disease.

The Midwives have access to disinfectants, which are supplied by the Council gratis.

In no instance has a Midwife been suspended, or even reported to the Supervising Authority.

Enemas are owned and used for the bowels. Their use as vaginal Douches without medical supervision is discouraged.

Catheters are not advised.

Thermometers are being obtained, and the use of charts for temperature and pulse-rate is being inculcated.

The Midwives are very clean in their persons, their dress, and their home-life. They are frequently met and interviewed.

Systematic inspections are made quarterly.

I consider that for the present the District is served with a sufficient number of this class of certified midwives.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

There are 7 Factories in the District, viz.:—3 Cotton Mills, 1 Bleaching Works, 1 Engraving Shop, 1 Gas Works, 1 Mineral Water Factory.

There are 22 Workshops.

For the most part quarterly inspections are made.

Defects found were—2 cases of want of cleanliness, 1 case of insufficient drainage of a floor, 5 cases of other minor nuisances. These nuisances were all remedied.

Sanitary accommodation was satisfactory.

There are no Workplaces nor Homeworkers' Premises in Hollingworth.

The one Bakehouse is above ground. The premises have been regularly visited, and have been found to comply with all the special sanitary requirements.

Annual Tabular Statement by Inspector of Nuisances.

The statement received by me from Mr. W. Pitt, the Inspector of Nuisances, contains the following particulars:—

“During the year many nuisances have been investigated, such as stopped drains, neglected ashpits, and insufficient sanitary accommodation. Most of these nuisances have been abated. The remainder are having attention, and will be reported upon later.

The factories and workshops have been regularly visited, both personally and in company with the Medical Officer. These visits have included—28 inspections of factories, and 92 inspections of workshops. Any defects found have been promptly remedied.

The means of escape in case of fire is satisfactory.

Quarterly visits have been made, in company with the Medical Officer, to the dairies and cowsheds. The greater number of these are clean, and in good order. Others are not at all in a sanitary condition. The latter are having attention, and will be reported upon in due course.

There are 17 Dairies in the district, but no Milkshop.

The bye-law which compels all ashpits to be cleansed before 11 a.m. has received particular attention during the year, with the result that the streets have been kept clear of all objectionable refuse during the remainder of the day.

The following new buildings have been erected during the year:—

4 Houses in Market Street, by Mr. John Wain.

3 Closets in Market Street and King Street, by Mr. Joseph Howard.

1 Closet in Green Lane, by Miss Florence Moorhouse.

1 Closet in Green Lane, by Miss Emily Bridge.

The Slaughter Houses have been visited on many occasions. Any nuisances found have been abated. All houses where infectious disease has occurred have been thoroughly fumigated. Disinfectants are freely supplied gratis."

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. W. POMFRET,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.
Name of District—HOLLINGWORTH URBAN.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in District				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 2086	Total Population at all Ages } 2447 } At Census of } 304 } 1901.	Average number of persons per house } 1.6 } (Union Workhouse in Ashton-under-Lyne.	
		No.	Rate	Under 1 yr. of age		At all Ages.			No.	Rate				
				No.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	No.	Rate.							
1900	2700	56	20.7	10	178	46	17.0	...	46	17.0		...	...
1901	2447	58	24.1	7	120	38	15.5	...	38	15.5		...	...
1902	2447	64	26.9	5	78	41	16.7	...	41	16.7		...	...
1903	2500	64	25.6	7	109	29	11.6	1	30	12.0		...	...
1904	2800	57	23.9	13	228	49	19.6	2	51	20.4		...	...
1905	2800	69	24.6	9	130	26	9.2	...	26	9.2		...	...
1906	2800	65	23.2	3	46	31	11.0	...	31	11.0		...	...
1907	2980	63	21.1	7	111	45	15.1	2	47	15.7		...	...
1908	2980	80	26.8	10	124	49	16.4	4	53	17.7		...	...
1909	2980	52	17.4	3	57	33	11.0	...	33	11.0		...	...
Averages for years 1900-1909	2743	64.8	23.6	7.4	118	38	14.3	0.9	39	14.6				
1910	2980	72	24.1	7	97	40	13.4	...	40	13.4				

TABLE III.**Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during Year 1910****Name of District—HOLLINGWORTH URBAN.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	All Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.					
		Under 1 year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards.
Erysipelas	2	..	...	...	...	2	...
Scarlet Fever.....	16	1	4	9	1	1	...
Totals	18	1	4	9	1	3	...

Isolation Hospital :

**Longdendale Smallpox Hospital, Mottram Moor,
Hollingworth.**

Total available beds...	..	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated						1

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1910.

Name of District—HOLLINGWORTH URBAN.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up-wards.
Diarrhoea	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis).....	4	.	...	1	...	3	...
Other tuberculous diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	2	...	...	...	.	1	1
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	2	1	...	...	...	...	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Heart Diseases	7	...	...	...	...	3	4
All other causes ...	20	4	...	1	...	5	10
All causes.....	40	7	..	2	...	14	17

TABLE V.**HOLLINGWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.****Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.**

Deaths from Stated Causes, in Weeks and Months,
Under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Months.	4-5 Months.	10-11 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES, Certified	1	4	1	1	1	7
Diarrhoea	1	..	1
Marasmus	2	...	...	...	2
Tabes Mesenterica	1	...	...	1
Convulsions	2	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	1	1
	...	4	1	1	1	7

Population, estimated to middle of 1910... 2,980

Births in the year { legitimate... .. 68
 { illegitimate... .. 4

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants . 6
 { illegitimate infants 1

Deaths from all causes at all ages 10

Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1910, for the Urban District of Hollingworth, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	28	None.	None.
Workshops	92	do.	do.
Total.....	120	—	—

No Workplaces.

No Homework.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	2	2
Want of drainage of floors.....	1	1
Other nuisances	5	5
Total.....	8	8

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at end of Year 1910							Number.
Bakehouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Confectioners' Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Total number of Workshops on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

